

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO HUMAN SERVICES SYSTEM

- ☐ 385 North Arrowhead Avenue - San Bernardino, CA 92415-0160 - (909) 884-4056
- ☐ 1647 East Holt Boulevard - Ontario, CA 91761 - (909) 458-9673
- ☐ 13911 Park Avenue - Victorville, CA 92392 - (760) 243-3773
- ☐ San Bernardino County Vector Control Program
2355 East 5th Street - San Bernardino, CA 92415-0064 - (909) 388-4600

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Public Health Director

ERIC K. FRYKMAN, MD, MPH, MBA
Interim Public Health Officer

DANIEL J. AVERA, REHS
Chief of Environmental Health

Also serving the cities of

Adelanto	Montclair
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 14, 2004
PHD# 4-31

Contact: Terri Smith
Program Manager
(909) 387-4692
(909) 356-3805 (after 5 p.m.)

WEST NILE VIRUS CONFIRMED IN 1 DEAD CROW IN SAN BERNARDINO

West Nile Virus (WNV) has been detected in a dead crow in the City of San Bernardino. The test confirmation was received from the State Department of Health Services and the Center for Vector-borne Disease Research Unit at UC Davis at 2:40 p.m. on Friday, May 14, 2004. The crow was collected on April 23 at the corner of 21st Street and North E Street in the City of San Bernardino. This positive finding is the first in 2004 and confirms that WNV activity is continuing in the County.

Public Health Officer Dr. Eric Frykman stated, "The County's Vector Control Program is working with concerned cities and residents to get the message out about this disease. In addition, the Vector Control Program will continue its efforts in public education, active vector control operations and surveillance throughout the coming months."

Vector Control staff will be distributing fact sheets and looking for water sources on properties within a one-mile radius of the location where the bird collected. Since mosquitoes lay their eggs on standing water, residents are encouraged to look for and eliminate any standing or stagnant water on their properties.

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Dr. Frykman added, "Pools and ponds left unchlorinated are a major source of mosquito breeding and I urge residents to keep their pools clean. Green or dirty pools impact entire neighborhoods, and mosquitoes breeding in such pools fly over property lines to bite people several blocks away." Please report green pools and other sources of mosquito breeding to San Bernardino County Vector Control Program at (800) 44-ABATE or (909) 388-4600.

Less than 1 percent of individuals, primarily elderly and those with lowered immune systems, may develop serious illness such as encephalitis and meningitis. Most individuals who are infected with WNV will not experience any illness. Others will have only mild symptoms, such as fever, headache and body aches. WNV is transmitted to humans and animals through a mosquito bite. Mosquitoes become infected when they feed on infected birds. Transmission of WNV from human to human generally does not occur.

San Bernardino County citizens can protect themselves from mosquito bites by taking these precautions:

- *Avoid spending time outside when mosquitoes are most active, especially at dawn and dusk.*
- *Wear long pants and long-sleeved shirts when outdoors.*
- *Apply insect repellent containing DEET. Follow the label directions when using any repellent.*
- *Make sure that doors and windows have tight-fitting screens. Repair or replace screens that have tears or holes.*
- *Eliminate all sources of standing water on your property that can support mosquito breeding.*

Since horses are susceptible to WNV and a vaccine is available for horses, horse owners are advised to contact their veterinarians about timely vaccinations.

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The Department of Public Health encourages the public to participate in the WNV surveillance program by reporting birds that have been dead for less than 48 hours to the County Vector Control toll-free hotline at (800) 44-ABATE. Before calling for instruction, individuals should note the type of bird found, its location and condition. The bird should not show signs of decomposition or maggot infestation. People should not attempt to catch or handle sick birds without gloves, though there is no evidence humans can get the virus from handling live or dead infected birds.

For more information about WNV or to report dead birds, visit www.sbcounty.gov/dehs.

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Human Services System

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